GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3928
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010
CHILDREN WORKING IN REALITY SHOWS
Dashmunsi Deepa

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are reports that various reality shows/programmes involving children participation being telecast on various TV channels are promoting child labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government proposes to ban such reality shows/programmes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. JATUA)

(a) No such study has been brought to the notice of the Ministry. However, Ministry of Labour & Employment has informed that employment of children as actors is not prohibited under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. However, as and when a child is paid to perform as actor/artist, Part III of the Act regulating the hours of employment, etc. comes into force and as per Section 2 of the Act, the appropriate government to enforce the provision of the Act, is the State Government in this regard. For regulation there is no need to either amend the Act or bring in new legislation.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) All broadcasters are required to abide by the Programme and Advertisement codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under Section 20 of the Act. The Committee either suo-motu or on receipt of complaints, examines cases of violation of the Codes. If any violation is noted by the Committee, action is taken against the TV channel as per rules.